

HOUSE RESOLUTION 148
By Hicks

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Mr. D. R. Beeson, Jr. upon receiving the 1998 "Spirit of Johnson City" award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to honor those dedicated citizens who have emerged as leaders in service to the public and who have enhanced the quality of life for the many citizens whose lives have been touched by their good works; and

WHEREAS, Mr. D. R. Beeson, Jr. is one such exemplary person who has been a leader in the business and civic life of the Tri-Cities, East Tennessee and our great state for many years; and

WHEREAS, as an appropriate accolade to a truly selfless gentleman, the Johnson City Medical Center Foundation presented him with their distinguished "Spirit of Johnson City" award for 1998; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Johnson City, Mr. Beeson was recognized for his unflagging efforts to promote his beloved city. Described as a "gentleman's gentleman" and a "voice for a better tomorrow," he has been instrumental in the growth and development of his upper East Tennessee community; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late D. R. Beeson, Sr. and Elma Rankin Beeson, he graduated from Duke University with a degree in civil engineering and received his master's

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degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania; Mr. Beeson is also a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving his country valiantly as an officer after his college graduation; and

WHEREAS, a leader in his profession, Mr. Beeson has been a highly-regarded architect in Johnson City for more than four decades; since 1949, Mr. Beeson and the partners in his firm, Beeson, Lusk and Street, have provided the Tri-Cities with some of the area's most beautiful designs, both residential and commercial; and

WHEREAS, ever one to shoulder the mantle of professional responsibility, he has served his industry in the important positions of President of the Watauga Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA); President of the Tennessee Society of Architects, and as a valued, longtime member of the AIA; and

WHEREAS, Johnson City is fortunate to have such a generous citizen as Mr. Beeson as he has given unselfishly of his time and his talents to perpetuate the public good; elected to the Johnson City Commission in 1975, Mr. Beeson has also served the city as Vice-Mayor and member of the Johnson City Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals; and

WHEREAS, he has given unreservedly of himself to a number of organizations and boards of which even a brief listing is inspiring, having served as president of the Johnson City/Washington County Chamber of Commerce, and board member for Johnson City Sister Cities, Johnson City Medical Center and Tipton-Hayes Historical Home; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beeson has served the boards of Leader Federal Savings and Loan and Elizabethton Federal Savings and Loan with acumen; an Eagle Scout himself and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award and God and Service Recognition, this admirable man has devoted himself to the Boys Scouts of America for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, this distinguished citizen has had numerous high honors bestowed upon him in recognition of his professional and civic excellence; he received the Kiwanian of the Year award in 1963 and was inducted into the Johnson City Chamber "Hall of Fame" in 1997; and

WHEREAS, a spiritual man with deep conviction, Mr. Beeson has been an active member of the First Presbyterian Church since 1928; he has served an appreciative congregation with alacrity and acuity as pianist, Sunday school teacher, deacon, elder, trustee and mission chairman; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man also finds time to lend his considerable talents to the Holston Presbyterian Home Board and the Johnson City Preaching Mission, serving as past Chairman of both; and to King College, serving as a former Trustee; he remains an active Gideon and has served admirably on the board of Contact Ministries; and

WHEREAS, his celebrated life aside, Mr. Beeson is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his family, including his loving wife, Helen Still Beeson, and their children, D.R. Beeson III, and Ann Caroline Beeson Bean; the Beesons are also proud to be the grandparents of five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, through his actions and attitudes, Mr. Beeson has exemplified the qualities of a true leader in his personal and professional life, placing the welfare of others first; and

WHEREAS, the Johnson City community, upper East Tennessee and our entire state have benefited greatly from Mr. Beeson's good works, and he is, therefore, richly deserving of the respect and commendation of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor Mr. D. R. Beeson, Jr. of Johnson City for his many accomplishments as a professional and community leader, and we congratulate him upon receiving the distinguished "Spirit of Johnson City" award for 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.